The grants to the organizations are sanctioned on the basis of norms of Schemes. The board criteria for giving grant-in-aid under the scheme are:—

Recommendation along with inspection report of the Designated Authority, Financial position of organization, Credibility of the project and Location of the project.

(c) There is no specified time to sanction projects. The time for disposal of application depends upon the receipt of documents and recommendation of appropriate authorities.

(d) No schemes are pending with Government.

Vrindaban Widows living in Sub-human conditions

1149. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vrindaban widow await death living in sub-human conditions; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to ensure social justice and human rights to such helpless widows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) According to the information furnished by the Department of Women and Child Development (Ministry of Human Resource Development), the Department has received a report on the widows in Vrindavan prepared by UP State Welfare Advisory Board and also an interim report on the widows of Vrindavan prepared by the West Bengal Women Commission from the State of West Bengal. Both these reports had observed that the widows of Vrindavan have a depend on alms as the support provided by the Bhajanshrams and charitable institutions which is not sufficient enough.

(b) The Department of Women and Child Development has set up a Committee under the Chairpersonship of Minister of State for Women and Child Development to co-ordinate the efforts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal Governments and Central Government organizations for rehabilitation of the marginalized women of Vrindavan and to monitor flow of benefits of Central Schemes to the target group. Besides, there are various Central Government Schemes for self employment for women such as Setting up of Employment-cum-Income Generating Units for Women

(NORD), Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY), Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), Condensed Courses of Educational and Vocational Training for Women (CCE and VT) under which pereference is given to such marginalized women in the matter of providing assistance. The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh is also implementing programmes, with special focus on marginalised women, under which financial assistance is provided for implementing self employment programmes through Non-Governmental Organisations. Other schemes such as National Old Age Pension Scheme and the Social Defence Schemes provide for pension and rehabilitation of such aged and marginalized women.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has released grant-in-aid or Rs. 5.82 lakhs during 1998-99 to Guild of Service, a voluntary organization working for women in need, for implementing a project for the rehabilitation of widows of Vrindavan by providing them shelter, food, means of living, vocational training etc. Another grant of Rs. 14.04 lakhs has been sanctioned during the current financial year (1999-2000), 50% of which amounting to Rs. 7.02 lakhs has been released in October, 1999.

Schemes for the Liberation of Scavengers

1150. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the liberation of scavengers;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the allocation of fund made for implementing these schemes;

(d) whether it is a fact that these socially significant schemes have not been receiving proper attention;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken for suitable rehabilitation of scavengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents is implemented by States/UTs. Under the scheme, the Centre provide financial assistance towards their rehabilitation wherein the subsidy component is 50% of the Project Cost (upto Rs. 50,000/-), subject to a